

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 5, 2016

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission

16.069

An Order

Authorize purchase of 110 +/- acres to add to the Brookwood Marsh Conservation Area

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The *Open Space and Recreation Plan: 2011-2018* recommends preserving open space on Burts Pit Road to preserve Northampton's only bog and rare species habitat and provide for an multiuse trail to serve the area;

WHEREAS, The owners of 110± acres located on Burts Pit Road, Stone Ridge Road and Overlook Drive have agreed to sell their property for \$500,000;

WHEREAS, The City is working with the seller who may carve off some small amount of the land to lower the purchase price;

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts LAND Grant provides up to 64% reimbursement for acquisition of certain conservation areas and is a reimbursement program which requires that the City demonstrate that it has all of the funds necessary to acquire conservation properties prior to state reimbursement; and

Ordered, that

The Conservation Commission is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire for conservation and passive recreation purposes, as provided by MGL Chapter 40, §8C, any fee, easement or conservation restriction as defined in MGL Chapter 184, §31 or any other interest in the above land and any immediately adjoining land; that the City Council hereby accepts such conservation restrictions; that the Conservation Commission is authorized to grant conservation restrictions on any land so acquired; and that the Conservation Commission is authorized to contract for and expend any federal, state, or other aid available for this project, including any grant from the Division of Conservation Services of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, under the LAND/Self-Help Act, MGL Chapter 132A, §11;

Further that \$500,000 is appropriated for such acquisition; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow \$500,000 under MGL c.44, §7(3); and that the Conservation Commission is authorized to contract for any federal, state, or other aid available for this project, including any grant from the Division of Conservation Services of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, under the LAND Self-Help Act, Chapter 132A, §11 of the General Laws;

Further that any grants, donations, or sales shall be used to reimburse open space funds used for the purchase.

